

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

VIVID ENTERTAINMENT, LLC; AND
VIVID ENTERTAINMENT GROUP,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-296 LED

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PLAYBOY ENTERPRISES, INC. and
PLAYBOY.COM, INC.,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-299 LED

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WALGREENS.COM, INC. and
WALGREEN CO.,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-300 LED

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-301 LED

vs.

ISTOCKPOHOTO LP; and GETTY
IMAGES, INC.,

Defendants.

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JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LFP INTERNET GROUP, LLC,

Defendant.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-302 LED

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE NEIMAN-MARCUS GROUP, INC.;
AND NEIMAN MARCUS, INC.,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-303 LED

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

TEJAS RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ACADEMY, LTD. d/b/a ACADEMY
SPORTS + OUTDOORS d/b/a ACADEMY
SPORTS AND OUTDOORS; and
ACADEMY.COM, L.L.C.,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-304 LED

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CONSOLIDATION ORDER

The passage of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (“AIA”), which clarified the joinder requirements for cases alleging patent infringement, has resulted in a significant increase in the number of “serially” filed patent cases on the Court’s docket. Similarly, the Federal Circuit’s recent *In re EMC Corp.* decision leads to a nearly analogous result for pre-AIA filings because multi-defendant cases may be severed “[u]nless there is an actual link between the facts underlying each claim of infringement.” 677 F.3d 1351, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2012). Such serially filed or severed cases, by their nature, involve common issues of law or fact, including claim construction and validity. “If actions before the Court involve a common question of law or fact, the court may: (1) join for hearing or trial any or all matters at issue in the actions; (2) consolidate the actions; or (3) issue any other orders to avoid unnecessary cost or delay.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a). In applying Rule 42, a court has considerable discretion. *In re EMC Corp.*, 677 F.3d at 1360; *see also Lurea v. M/V Albata*, 625 F.3d 181, 194 (5th Cir. 2011) (“Rule 42(a) provides district courts with broad authority to consolidate actions that ‘involve a common question of law or fact.’”). Because the above-styled cases involve a common question of law or fact, consolidation of the cases would promote efficient case management.

Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** that the above-styled cases shall be consolidated for pretrial issues only, with the exception of venue. The earliest filed civil action shall serve as the lead case for consolidated issues. The individual cases will remain active for venue motions and trial. Should the parties file motions to transfer or motions to sever and transfer, the Court will consider these motions only as to the defendants in the originally filed member cases, not as to all defendants in the pretrial consolidated case. *See Norman*, 2012 WL 3307942, at *4. All motions, other than venue motions, shall be filed in the consolidated case.

The parties shall submit a single Docket Control, Discovery, ESI, and Protective Order, and each of the respective orders shall be filed in the lead case. All parties to the consolidated case are ordered to meet-and-confer and submit uniform docket control, protective and discovery orders, which will govern the consolidated case, regardless of whether the same have previously been entered in individual actions. The local rules' page limitations for *Markman* briefs and other motions will apply to the consolidated case. To further promote judicial economy and to conserve the parties' resources, the Court encourages the parties to file a notice with the Court in the event that there are other related cases currently pending on the Court's docket, as well as any future cases Plaintiff intends to file, that may also be appropriate for consolidation with this case.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 9th day of October, 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Davis', written over a horizontal line.

**LEONARD DAVIS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**